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FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1913.

**NO EQUALIZATION WITHOUT CENTRALIZATION.**

The Tax Conference of the Conference for Education in the South yesterday afternoon brought together a great many men who realize that taxation is the most important problem in Virginia to-day. It was a helpful, thought-provoking discussion, in which much interest was evidenced by representative citizens of Virginia, who asked questions and listened eagerly to the addresses on methods of securing effective assessments and an effective system by T. S. Adams, of the Wisconsin Tax Commission; Lawson Purdy, president of the Department of Taxes and Assessments of New York City; Charles Lee Raper, dean of the graduate school of the University of North Carolina, and Ex-Governor Noel, of Mississippi.

There was unanimous agreement upon several principles. Without dissent, the proposition was laid down that the assessor should be removed from all local pressure and all local influence. He should not be appointed by local powers, but by some general State body. If not, he will be subject to local political influences. His tenure should be consistent with his efficiency and honesty. If possible, his appointment should be made under civil service rules. He should be neither overworked nor underpaid. He should have under him a district sufficiently large to insure his being busy at all times. His compensation should be good. Tax assessment should be under the control of a commission, with centralized power. There was thorough harmony on this point. The opinion of the conference vindicated that of the State Tax Commission of Virginia, which has saved this Commonwealth already thousands of dollars had it not been discontinued by the narrow vision and selfishness of the tax-dodging communities of Virginia. If there is to be State-wide honesty and accuracy in the tax levy, it must be achieved under the supervision of a central authority, removed from all local influences. There can be no efficient tax machinery unless there is a State Tax Commission. Even if segregation is adopted as a State policy, there must be some centralized State body to assess and collect State taxes. There can be no thorough equalization without centralization. Ex-Governor Noel, of Mississippi, punctured yesterday the old, old cry of "local self-government" when he said that in local self-government the State is the unit in tax matters. It is a question of State sovereignty, not of precinct sovereignty. How many crimes against honesty and fairness and righteousness are committed in the name of "local self-government"!

The object to be sought in adopting any system of taxation is efficiency and accuracy in assessment. If segregation can accomplish that end, well and good, but the purpose to be effected is more important than the method. The consensus of opinion yesterday appeared to be that the establishment of a tax commission, with plenary power, is the first and best thing to be done.

T. S. Adams, of the Wisconsin Tax Commission, said yesterday that despite the creation and operation of the national income tax, Wisconsin still levies the State income tax, which has poured in a few years hundreds of thousands of dollars into her treasury. The Wisconsin tax is levied with very much smaller exemptions than those of the Federal government and reaches many thousands of people who are not affected by the latter levy. There is potent suggestion in that statement to Virginia, for this State can, in like cases and upon like classes, impose a State income tax, despite the existence of the national tax. We surrendered much in empowering the Federal government to impose and collect a national income tax, but all is not lost. The State income tax can still be made a fruitful field of revenue in Virginia.

Fifteen years ago the tax system of Wisconsin was as ineffective, unjust and unequal as that of Virginia is today. Wisconsin now is collecting thousands of dollars in taxes where Virginia is receiving nothing. The reason is that Wisconsin has an efficient and scientific system of taxation, while Virginia has not. Because of her excellent tax system, Wisconsin's tax rate has been lowered, while Virginia plods along with antiquated devices. How much longer will Virginia wait to adopt a system which can produce for her, as it has produced for other States, hundreds of thousands of dollars in increased revenue from those who are not bearing their just share of the tax burden?

There can be no equalization of taxes without centralization of the power of assessing and collecting them. Virginia must make up her mind to that fact.

**HOW IS THE SOUTH TRAINING?**

The most casual "running over" of the London Times' "Russian supplement," recently printed by that paper, with the avowed object of stimulating British interest in exploiting to British advantage Russian trade, commerce and industry, will prove a revelation to the average reader, who is wont to regard Russia as still lingering in

the twilight of economic progress and promise. The writer of the introductory article in the supplement, which covers some forty-four pages, is Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace. "Russia," he says, in leading up to a review of the special articles that follow, "has hitherto been considered in this country (England) mainly from the political point of view. Next to politics, literature has, perhaps, been the field in which most interest has been taken, thanks to writers of genius, with Tolstoy, whose name is a household word all over the world, at their head."

What is true of the light in which Russia has been considered in England is true of the light in which she has been considered "pretty much, if not entirely, in all other countries."

It is particularly true in this country, to which distance naturally contributes much to barring the closer inside view. "But," says the Times, in editorially summarizing Sir Donald's review, "a great change is taking place, and it may be confidently predicted that in future the economic element will more and more assert itself. Russia presents a most interesting study to-day in this respect. She has definitely entered on the path of commercial and industrial development, which one nation after another, treading in the footsteps of England, has followed by some inexorable law," resumes the Times. "The industrialization of this vast country is already in active progress. The growth of factory and town is proceeding rapidly, and, with an immense indigenous population to supply, a corresponding expansion is certain."

These facts, the Times urges, have more than a scholarly interest to the United Kingdom, as pointing a field for British enterprise, capital, expansion of trade, and competition.

And they have more than a scholarly interest as pointing the same way for the United States.

A statement in one of the special articles in the supplement accentuates especially, as regards the South, the suggestion of competition—competition with Russia not only in countries foreign to her, but in the markets of her vast "outlying areas" present and objective. The statement is this: "There has been a rapid expansion of manufactures, of which textiles are the most important branch. Cotton takes the first place, and has already reached a point which makes the Russian cotton mills a substantial item in the world's production, with 5,500,000 spindles and 215,000 looms. The industry is carried on with the most modern appliances, and Russia can boast of some of the finest mills in existence."

Already Russia has a multitude of caravan routes extending into the farther East; already she has a trunk railway line crossing her entire domain from west to east, and is pursuing a steady and systematic policy of building feeders to and distributors from it.

With the opening of the Panama Canal, the South will have first and foremost call to competition with Russia in supplying the farther Orient with cotton goods, to say nothing of other manufactured products. She will be in more favorable position than any other section of this country and any foreign country to meet Russia half way, to challenge Russia to the race to many Asiatic markets, some of which are even in Russian territory. How is the South training for the race?

**THE HUMAN ELEMENT FIRST.**

No matter what you do, the man is the essential. This is the most pertinent lesson of the Education Conference. Whether it be juster taxation, farm improvement, co-operation, education, or religion, the machinery of the theory does not amount to much without the men. You can talk and write and confer and gather statistics as long as you want, but the real problems are those of old fundamental human nature, and the only way to solve them is by hand work done by men with energy and vision. There is no formula for social betterment. Not even a clear, convincing presentation of the cause of the trouble and the remedy amounts to a great deal. Hundreds of men will hear and tell what they and their communities need, and yet go away from this gathering and never succeed in doing a thing. First, they do not understand human nature. Second, they have no conception of the personal element.

Go to any of these conferences and you will hear the theorist who thinks he is practical asking how to do it. He complains because he cannot get the methods of success. The speaker tries to tell him, and fails. Only once have we heard the real answer. It was: "Go ahead and begin. You will learn the details as you work."

The best suggestion of methods is from the type of men who come to give a message of progress and success. They are big men, fighters, idealists, human, rich in experience, and so full of life and energy that the chairman has to hammer them into quietness. They are missionaries. That is why they get the results. They go out among the farmers, the teachers, the business men, with a vision and a hope. They put the desire for better conditions in the people. They get the people to trust them. Their reputations and characters are their methods. As the big-minded Pierpont Morgan testified, "Business is based on character. I would lend a million dollars to some men on their words."

The biggest exhibit at this gathering is men. Men like Dr. Bourland, J. C. Caldwell, A. O. Nelson, John Lee Coulter—they are the secrets. They are the men who welcome struggle because it is a noble thing. They know men are lethargic, selfish, dollar-mad, full of pride, ignorance and superstition. But they work with these elements to win great victories. They have faith in the essential goodness of men, and they labor until the faith is justified.

The principles of big plans are not

many or complex. It doesn't take over an hour to outline a scheme that makes an epoch. But the scheme is not the essential. It is the men behind. They radiate something divine which we feel in name personally. The South must remember that there is no automatic salvation, no universal panacea. The answer now, as through the ages, is the work done by big men on other men for the sake of the work.

**SPIRAEA.**

Spring spreads broad to the sunlight nothing more comforting than the finely-named spirea. It breaks into white mist on hedges and across lawns with a pure beauty that is Greek like the name. It is not gay like the tulip, or splendid like the laurels and rhododendrons, but it is still and restful and full of some secret anodyne for the weary who have found the world grim and forbidding. If the origin of the name is in the spire-like form of the flowers, it is very fitting. The bloom points the heart upward as does a noble spire. It holds both consolation and promise.

The botanist is not alone in choosing pretty names. The poetry of the common-folk is voiced in the ordinary terms for this shrub. One form is the "bridal-wreath," and another the old and long-loved "meadow-sweet." Here in Virginia we know one variety as the shad-bush, because it is supposed to bloom when the first mysterious shad come up the rivers from their unknown winter residence. The bridal wreath is surely something that would make a beautiful garland for a country bride. In England doubtless many a May has witnessed blushing maidens led to the altar adorned with this rural crown of white. Herrick, perhaps, sang of it. Shakespeare knew it as he knew the other flowers. Spring is spring indeed if the meadows are made sweet with such drifts of snowy petals.

After all the hurly-burly and the writhing of evolution, whatsoever form it take, what can life offer better than the content of the eye resting on the white pendants of the spirea? It has no use. We can make no money from its culture. It preaches no sermon. Yet when the evening glory of the sun falls upon it, we view its radiance with a new wisdom and a new hope.

**"YOUR VOTE WILL BE APPRECIATED."**

One of the most naive signs of a complete failure to comprehend the nature of modern political ideals we know of is the poster soliciting support with these foolish words: "John Doe is a candidate for pound keeper. Your vote and influence will be appreciated."

That is futile and laughable and anti-dignified. Of course, your vote will be appreciated. Why shouldn't it be? It may help the gentleman to get an easy place with a bigger salary than he could earn in private business. If he were not appreciative, he would not only fail in common gratitude, but he would be a fool. Doesn't this emphasis of an inevitable thanks cast rather a reflection on your good sense? Is it not laying it on rather thick to tell you to be a good child and you will be appreciated? The modest candidate must think you are thick-witted indeed not to understand the exact source and extent of the appreciation he is so lavish with on the scare-head poster. He is appreciative just because he wants you to help choose him to run your business and get paid out of your money. There is no need for "bunk" on the telegraph poles to announce this fact.

Why not use this space on the poster to tell you one precise way he will make his appreciation clear and practical? The people of this day want facts and achievement, not empty, windy words. If this Doe chap has an idea that will save you 5 cents a day for feeding the stray dogs of the city, let him announce it. If he has a record for business efficiency and economy that makes his candidacy attractive, let him tell it. The only way a public servant can show true appreciation is by working in the interest of all the people whose business is entrusted to his charge. That's the kind of appreciation that talks.

Suppose a business man hires a clerk. Is he content to hear that the applicant will be grateful and appreciative? Not at all. He asks some sort of a guarantee of ability and character. He wants a good past record, recommendations from previous employers, evidence of some quality that will be of service to the business. Office-holders are nothing in the world but hired servants. They are chosen for work. The sooner we get the idea of cutting out the rhetoric and buncombe, and getting down to brass tacks, the better.

"Your vote will be appreciated." That makes intelligent men sick. It's an insult. Let some wise candidate announce that the opportunity to work long and hard for the people will be appreciated. We'll sit up and take notice then.

The Virginia press was ably represented on the program of the business men's conference of the Conference for Education in the South yesterday by Editor Sydenstricker, of the Lynchburg Advance, who read a well prepared, original and interesting paper on what Southern towns and cities are doing to aid agricultural development.

We do not see why the Conference on Country Life failed to have a Meeting on Doing Chores. That's what drives most boys and girls from the farm.

At last life is worth living again. The baseball season has arrived.

We judge Keats would have been right handy in the kitchen recalling those lines about "luscious syrups tinct with cinnamon," and beaters full of the "blushful Hippocrene with beaded bubbles winking at the brim and purple-stained mouth."

Somebody ought to design plans for an instantaneous bridge.

**Voice of the People**

**What Is Wrong With Virginia.**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Considerable space has been lately given by the leading Virginia papers to the matter of improvement in our present taxation laws and especially in their execution, as well as other things that will have to be done before Virginia can take the position she should occupy among the progressive States of the Union, and for which her natural advantages of location, climate, mineral, timber and agricultural resources so richly endow her. Permit me to suggest that the trouble with Virginia is that her people have permitted politics and not policies, men and not measures, parties and not principles, subjects and not substances, historic names and sentimental associations and not high patriotic motives and progressive ideals, to determine their actions at the ballot boxes in the past. The result is we have a partisan machine of line with branches in nearly every county and city in the State, controlled by men who make office-getting and holding their business and who are banded together with the one object of getting all the money they can from the people for their own benefit in the form of salaries, fees, contracts for public work, etc.

These machine politicians are not statesmen or even thinkers for party policies, principles or ideals. They merely assume the party name in order to shine in a reflected glory of past achievements and thereby use the sentiments of honored men and halcyon associations with which the name is regarded, to gather in the votes, that will enable them and their appointees to continue their business of drawing salaries, fees and jobs from the public, who are thereby beguiled into regarding their government in the most patriotic hands because the party name by which their bosses call themselves is the same though its substance has passed away.

Martin, Mann, Flood and their followers in Virginia are more in accord with the standard Republican representatives of the past than they are with Wilson, Bryan and the Progressives, but they dare not call themselves by their most appropriate name in Virginia because they could no longer fool the voters.

The machine representatives in the last Legislature denied to the people of Virginia an honest primary law, denied to them the right to know what their fee officers are getting out of them, denied to them the right to vote on the liquor question as a State-wide proposition, denied to them any measure of tax reform and equalization or apportionment of the tax burden in proportion to benefits received, denied to them any fair and equal representation in the General Assembly, and violated their oath to support the Constitution of Virginia as well as their duty to the people of Virginia as their representatives.

When the people of Virginia learn to distinguish between live and dead issues; when they learn to distinguish between party names and party principles, between professions and practice, between the substance of the present and the shadow of the past; when they cease to bow down and support the candidates in a general election whom they have denounced and voted against in the primary, and which the machine by its control of the vote is able to get their electoral vote to one party, the State vote to another and their county and city votes to a third, all in the same election, and the national, State and local issues presented in the primary, in the name of progress, as the States of the North and West sometimes do, then will Virginia become truly progressive, better schools, more efficient officers, less waste of the public money, less official graft, a more scientific agriculture and attractive and profitable country life naturally and logically follow in quick succession.

S. P. POWELL.  
Belmont.

**We Sincerely Agree.**

Scarcely a day passes that some article does not appear in your paper about the Allen case. These people have paid the penalty and are enjoying the penalty meted out to them by the laws of Virginia without a word of complaint. Now if it would be well to let them rest in their judgment by the only One to whom they have yet failed to answer? The people who seem to take pride in expressing their opinion of the law taking part in this horrible affair seem to forget that they are speaking harsh of the dead. Let us all forget this affair.

No word has yet been spoken against that man, Allen. I think they have said enough. Let us continue to ask: Why should people like these be allowed to live? Why should they be allowed to further punish the innocent engaged in shooting up the court at Hillsboro? Let us, for the sake of those to whom they have done and dear, stop and think of the suffering already endured by them, and let us delight in adding to the sufferings of those left, bereft by circumstances over which they had no control.

The pride of Virginians has always been to defend helpless women. Let us be merciful. Let us stop discussing this matter. We cannot do more to the dead nor add more to the punishment of those in prison. Yet we can, as we wish, add to or lighten the burden of the innocent women left to spend their lives in grief. Whether Governor Mann acted right or wrong, it is done and God alone can right the wrong. We should show mercy, as we ourselves plead for mercy. The people of Virginia all have their own opinions, and it seems to me useless to continue writing about things that cannot be undone. As a Virginian, and for the sake of the fair name of Virginia, I plead that the Allen be left in peace, both living and dead.

A. J. SUTHERLAND.  
Sutherland, Va., April 9, 1913.

**Better Suburban Car Service for Workmen.**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—A few days ago a printed letter to your paper made the statement that Virginia was among the best States of the Union for workmen to live in, and asked why so many of our best young people left it.

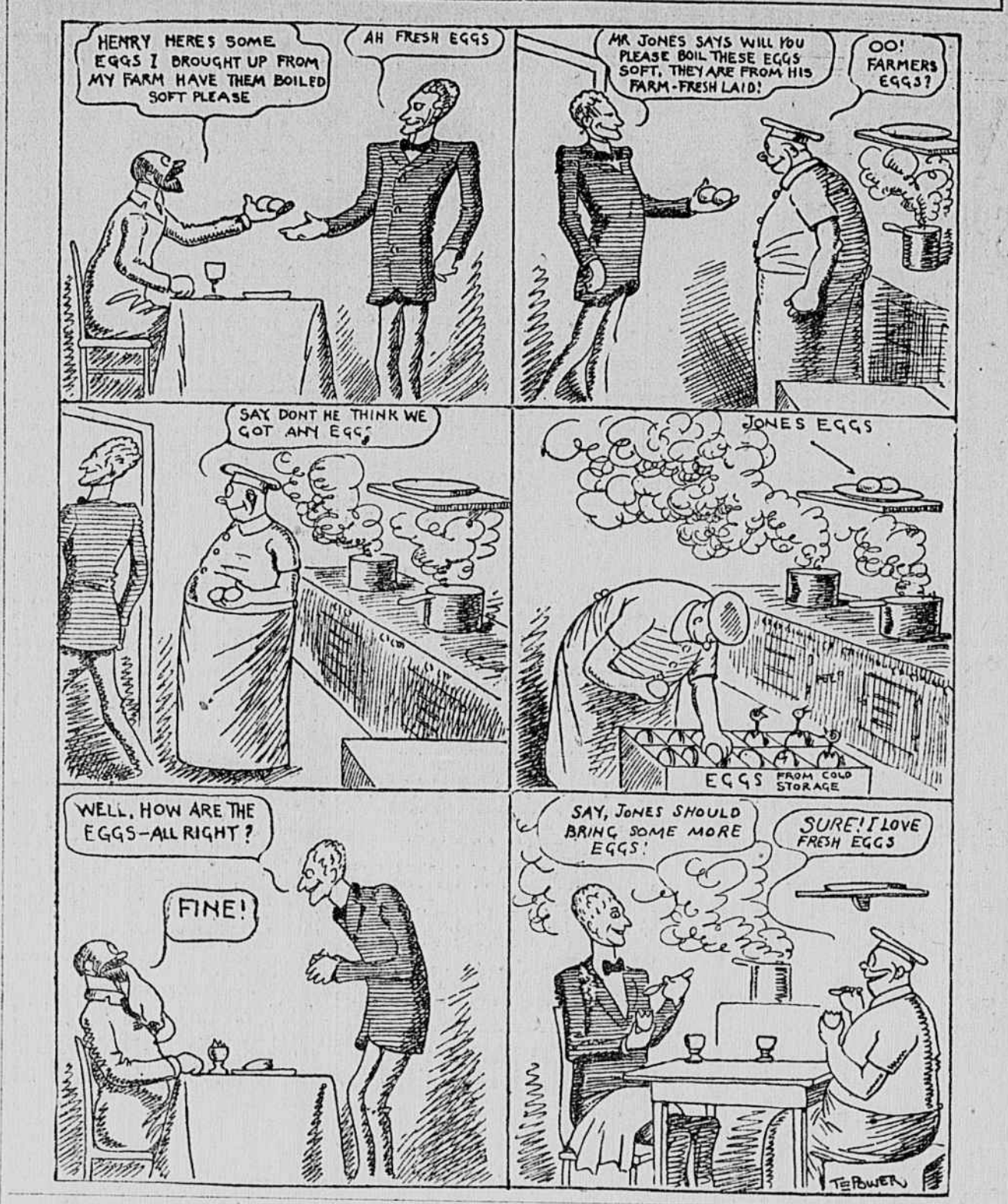
The answer appears this morning in the letter of M. Taylor. Every man in Richmond who has his own car and the city's welfare at heart should read and study this letter, and realizing the truth of the charges made by Mr. Taylor, should immediately appoint him, or a committee of one to see that public spirit is aroused and conditions changed.

If we could call home those who leave us after they have gone through a broadening and progressive process elsewhere, then their temporary sojourn away from home would be a blessing to them and to us.

Men of the type of Mr. Taylor should be urged to stay and help us in our endeavor for betterment. I am glad to see that the editor of this paper puts it up to him in a way it would be hard to refuse.

Mr. Taylor touched on my own pet grievance, the inadequacy of the street car service to the Petersburg and Pines car lines. There are only two things in the way of having the entire distance from Richmond to Petersburg a continuous line of workmen's cars.

**THE VERY LAST EGG STORY**



And for this end we all will fight. For if to obey the Bible tells us. To them protect so what's this case? MRS. V. E. DE PUE.  
Richmond, Va.

**Adios Madero.**  
Said I, where vision aspires; Away from the palm and vine. Where the very winds are wine, And evening zephyrs kiss The weariest away. Of the toll of the day?

Then the poet-seer replied: Heavily his soul was held; Sorrowfully he beheld The mercy that all denied To the merciful one In the land of the sun.)

**Offended.**  
Paenitet me quod animum tuum Verum offendi: me miserum! Mili ignoscere, o tu, Patrici! Ignoscere, lux, vere est divinum. Pride of Prince Edward, Nymph of the Midland. Fairest of fairies, queen of my Say thou'll forgive me, goddess of beauty; Oh, my beloved, why should we part?

Not the cold winds of land Hyperborean, Not the fell touch of Boreas' chill crown, E'er hath the power to check life's As hath thy wounding, thy heart-breaking frown!

Not the loved warmth of Phoebus, the beamer Of all that is good—fair patron of light— Half hath the power to banish night's darkness As hath thy smile to make the day bright.

Stygian shadows lend to my noonday Horrible dreams of the Climmeran shore. Freed of sorrow long I've despaired of. Now that thou frownest on me evermore!

O, how I love thee, fondly adore thee! List to the prayer of my soul—it is said. Just for a moment hear my petition: Smile, then divine one; make my heart glad!

Men, Patricia, cara, carissima. That I've wronged thee, in this doth appear: Lips that are mortal ne'er should dare utter Life's sweetest story to angelic ear! HENRI FORTESQUE.

**To Our Great-Grandmothers.**  
What's all this din you hear About equal suffrage, dear? In your time, I suppose you had The proverb of the worn so sad?

I do not believe that men of old, When women to sit and spin were told, Ever, ever treated their women so bold. As they treat them now for the love of gold.

That women are changed, I must agree, For all I know, that fact can't deny. But what is changing them, I ask? And taking them from their home tasks?

It is the men, I vow and declare, In their own face the change must stare. To their own life the blame must fall. They are surely the cause of it all.

For women were content to spin, To care for husband and home, and then Men got too bold in upholding their rights, And women were forced their cause to fight.

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**VIEWS OF THE VIRGINIA EDITORS**

**Extravagant.**  
In a divorce case St. Louis woman admitted that she "calmly broke a plate over her husband's head." Such wanton destruction of crockery in these days of high prices surely deserved rebuke from the judge.—Virginia-Pilot.

**A Safety Device.**  
Instead of buttons, such as fences use on their weapons, the Massachusetts women might, in order to comply with the new law, stick wads of chewing gum on the points of their hats to protect the public from injury.—Rural Retreat Times.

**Proposed New Federal Judge.**  
We are told from Washington that a bill has again been introduced to add another Federal judge to the number presiding in the territory embraced in Virginia. We believe such a bill comes up at each session of Congress. It is usually known nothing of the need of such additional judge, but it is the same principle over and over again. We believe such a bill would very much need of another judge. In Virginia, for instance, the Constitutional Convention, realizing that we were cumbered with a superfluity of judges, condensed them, cut out a number of judges, and arranged to have a few judges cover the territory. The convention had hardly adjourned before the Legislature, acting under authority mistakenly granted to make more judges, began to cut up the districts, and make more judges; and we believe there has not been a session of the Legislature since that has not created a new district or two.

That this has simply resulted in saddling the people of Virginia with more officeholders to support, we think is easily demonstrable. There are few circuits, for instance, that have more business to transact than the one over which Judge Holt presides, and yet when a judge is sick in any part of the State, or otherwise incapacitated to act, it is usually found that Judge Holt has the leisure to run over and serve in his place. This is not the fault of Judge Holt, who performs fully and promptly the duties assigned him in his own circuit, and there is no criticism of him if he is then able to go into other circuits and do the work on vacant benches. It is ground for criticism of the Legislature, however, which seems to be a machine for grinding out new offices.

We would advise President Wilson before signing a bill for a new judge, to call for some statistics and do some figuring and checking up.—Staunton Leader.

**Hust.**  
If Danville wasn't wrangling with the prohibition election and Norfolk with the fee system, maybe those towns would also be interested in who's going to pitch to-day?—Haltfax Gazette.

**Make It Worth While.**  
A member of Congress proposes to build an official residence in Washington for the Vice-President. Something ought to be done to make the office worth having.—Newport News Press.

**The Cause of Lynchings.**  
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I was down in Mississippi when the Houston lynchings occurred. While the crime that caused these lynchings was the murder of a white woman, the murder was but the result of a criminal assault. Booker Washington's letter to the contrary notwithstanding.

Perhaps if we should hear from parties familiar with the other twelve, he mentions, we should have an entirely different number in the total of cases. I would like also to state that I was born and raised in Ohio; my father, brother and uncles fought in the Union army, and I feel safe in saying that I am free from any of the so-called "Southern prejudices." Neither am I an advocate of lynch law. I have read a great deal of the writings of Washington and Dubois, and have doubted

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